GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5199
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO POSCO
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to lease land in Orissa to the Korean steel company Posco for steel mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the location and the area to be covered;

(c) whether any part of the land for this project falls in forest areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the environment clearance;

(e) whether any study has been conducted to find out the impact of the deforestation on the local population; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) No proposal for seeking environmental clearance for mining of iron ore for steel making from M/s Posco,a South Korean Corporation, has been received in the Ministry as on date.

(c) & (d) An environmental clearance was accorded in July, 2007 for setting up of 4.0 Million Tons Per Annum (MTPA) integrated Iron & Steel Plant with 400 Megawatt Captive Pow4r Plant at Kujang near Paradip, Jagatsingpur, Orissa by M/s POSCO India, Orissa Pvt. Ltd. (M/s Posco India) in terms of the Environmental Impact Asessment (EIA) Notification of 2006. A clearance has also been accorded in May, 2007 under Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 in May, 2007.As per the information submitted by M/s Posco India, total land acquired for the project is 4,004 acres, of which 3,097 acres is forest land.The Company has applied for transfer of this forest land.

(e) & (f) The proposal for forest clearance was as on date considered by the Forest Advisory Committee in August, 2007 and the case is subjudice as on date in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The EIA study has been conducted for the project including social impacts and the Environment Management Plan, addresses the measures to mitigate the impact.Further, compensatory afforestation is to be done as per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.